

Appl. No. 09/657,685
Amdt. Dated August 4, 2004
Reply to Office action of June 4, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P12227-US2
EUS/J/P/04-3188

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling communication between a first network in which control functions and user functions are combined in a first node and a second network in which control user functions and user control functions are separately implemented in second and third nodes, respectively, wherein the first node is a second generation Global Packet Radio Service (GPRS) node, the second node is a third generation GPRS support node server and the third node is a third generation GPRS support node gateway, the method comprising the steps of:
 - receiving a communication in the third node;
 - determining whether the received communication contains control data;
 - if the received communication data contains control data, extracting control data from the received communication utilizing a GPRS Tunneling Protocol (GTP) splitter;
 - forwarding the control data to the second node for processing and resource handling; and processing user data from the communication in the third node .
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein if the received communication does not contain control data, the received communication is processed by the third node and then forwarded to the first node.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the steps of extracting and forwarding control data are performed in the third second node.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first network is a second generation packet data network, and the second network is a third generation packet data network.

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5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the first network is a second generation Global Packet Radio Service (GPRS) network, and the second network is a third generation Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) network.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for enabling communication between a first network in which control functions and user functions are combined in a first node and a second network in which control functions and user functions are separately implemented in second and third nodes, respectively, wherein the first node is a second generation Global Packet Radio Service (GPRS) node, the second node is a third generation GPRS support node gateway and the third node is a third generation GPRS support node gateway, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver in the third node for receiving a communication;
a detector for detecting whether the received communication contains control data;

a GPRS Tunneling Protocol (GTP) protocol splitter for extracting detected control data from the received communication; and forwarding the control data to the second third node for resource handling, wherein user data from the communication is processed in the third node.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein if the received communication does not contain control data, the received communication is forwarded by the third node to the first node.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the protocol splitter is included in the third node.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the first network is a second generation packet data network, and the second network is a third generation packet data network.

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10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the first network is a second generation Global Packet Radio Service (GPRS) network, and the second network is a third generation Universal Mobile Telecommunication System (UMTS) network.

11.- 15. (Canceled)